

greatly from her passion and love for educating our students; her dedicated service made our community and State better.

Mrs. West was born July 3, 1932 in Crowley, Louisiana and was reared in Orange, Texas during the height of the Great Depression, a time when the racial climate in America was even more depressing for African Americans. Knowing the importance of education, she graduated valedictorian in her high school class in Texas. She then enrolled in undergraduate studies at the historic Fisk University at Nashville, Tennessee where she would meet her late husband, Clifton L. West, Jr. The couple relocated, in 1958, to McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento where her husband was stationed. Mrs. West completed her education by earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University at Sacramento and a Master of Arts from the University of San Francisco.

In 1962, before completing her undergraduate studies, Mrs. West took on a seemingly insurmountable challenge, being hired as a teacher in the all-white student and faculty Elk Grove Unified School District. This marked the embarking upon a barrier-breaking 27-year career in education. She quickly rose through the ranks in teaching and administration to the position of Principal in 1979, a position in which she served for ten years. Although she retired in 1989, she remained a very active respected presence in and around the Elk Grove-Sacramento community well into her 80s.

Despite her demanding career and devotion to serving others, Mrs. West's four children did not lack in parental love, nurturing and educational guidance. All her children excelled in academia, sports, or both, two of whom having achieved professorship at prestigious universities, and another is an accomplished Zoo linguist.

A partial list of awards and recognitions marking Mrs. West's achievements include educational awards and citations such as Teacher of the Year; newspaper awards which included the 1963 Mother of the Year (her most endearing recognition); awards from All-state Insurance, Shiloh Baptist Church, Sacramento Council of Negro Women, Sacramento Chapter of 100 Black Women; in 1979, first female principal in the Elk Grove Unified School District; and, in 2002, the first African American in Sacramento to have a school, Irene B. West Elementary, named in her honor.

Madam Speaker, today as family and friends of Mrs. Irene B. West gather to remember her, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her tremendous legacy of educator, encourager, and motivator. Her mark on the Sacramento area community will live on forever.

IN RECOGNITION OF TAYLOR
WARE

HON. LAUREN UNDERWOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Taylor Ware for her service in my office in Washington, D.C.

Taylor joined our office as a legislative correspondent at the beginning of the coronavirus

pandemic. As our office pivoted to remote work and worked 24/7 to respond to the massive increase in constituents reaching out with questions or for assistance, Taylor played an integral role. Among other accomplishments, she drafted hundreds of letters updating constituents on policy changes, made sure every incoming message was promptly referred for a response, and solely managed a detailed and high-volume correspondence system. Taylor truly went above and beyond in managing constituent correspondence, fulfilling my commitment to transparency and accountability and elevating constituent concerns so we could bring them directly to Administration officials. Taylor also worked to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in Congress through her role leading Legislative Branch appropriations for the office for Fiscal Year 2022.

Taylor's thoughtfulness, graciousness, and professionalism were invaluable assets as we worked to keep our community safe, healthy, and informed in this unprecedented year. I particularly want to recognize her efforts to support and mentor interns in our office, who relied on her for answers and guidance. Although Taylor may be leaving our office, our community in northern Illinois and my entire staff will continue to benefit from the results of her hard work and expertise.

Prior to joining my staff, Taylor earned a Bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University and a Master's degree from Washington University in St. Louis. I am grateful she chose to continue her career in public service by joining my office. Our office will miss her kindness, intelligence, sense of humor, and love of bizarre Jell-O recipes.

Madam Speaker, I would like to formally thank Taylor Ware for her service to my office, to Illinois's 14th Congressional District, and to our country.

THE COMMUNITY BROADBAND ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I'm proud to sponsor H.R. 1631, the Community Broadband Act, a bicameral bill that empowers communities in every state to bridge the digital divide by deploying their own local broadband networks.

Tens of millions of Americans lack access to broadband or can't afford it. This digital divide is a national embarrassment, and we must do everything we can to solve it. One part of the solution should be community broadband, a proven model that works to provide fast broadband at affordable speeds to millions of Americans today.

Over 900 municipalities, Tribes, co-ops, public-private partnerships, and nonprofits across the U.S. administer broadband networks in their own communities. These are communities in urban, suburban, rural, and Tribal regions of our country spanning 120 Congressional Districts.

Unfortunately, 22 states have enacted laws to limit or ban such networks. These state laws shield incumbents from competition and harm consumers. Importantly, research by New America's Open Technology Institute shows that community broadband produces higher quality service at lower costs.

For this reason, Senator CORY BOOKER, Representative JARED GOLDEN, and I introduced the Community Broadband Act which preempts protectionist state laws to enable community broadband. The Community Broadband Act was originally introduced in the 109th Congress by Senators Lautenberg and McCain, and I've been proud to carry this legislation with Senator BOOKER since the 114th Congress.

The Community Broadband Act is supported by a long list of well-respected organizations, including the National League of Cities; the National Association of Counties; Next Century Cities; the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association; National Urban League; Consumer Reports; Electronic Frontier Foundation; New America's Open Technology Institute; Public Knowledge; Free Press Action; the Center for Democracy & Technology; Access Now; the National Digital Inclusion Alliance; National Rural Electric Cooperative Association; the Utilities Technology Council; the Institute for Local Self-Reliance; and the Coalition for Local Internet Choice.

Last Congress, the House passed the Community Broadband Act as part of H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act. The legislation is included in H.R. 1783, Majority Whip CLYBURN's Accessible, Affordable Internet for All Act and H.R. 1848, the Energy and Commerce Committee's LIFT America Act, and I thank Whip CLYBURN and Chairman PALLONE for including my legislation in theirs.

I'm also very pleased that the Biden-Harris Administration's American Jobs Plan proposal includes the need for "lifting barriers that prevent municipally-owned or affiliated providers and rural electric co-ops from competing on an even playing field with private providers," which can be achieved by enacting the Community Broadband Act.

At a recent hearing of the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, three witnesses made a strong case for the importance of community broadband, and each endorsed the Community Broadband Act. They testified about successful networks of many types that I wish to recognize as well:

The City of Wilson, North Carolina, operates a successful fiber-to-the-home network for its residents. The City of San Rafael, California partnered with a nonprofit to develop a mesh network to provide free wi-fi to residents. EugNet is an open-access network in Eugene, Oregon that has experienced major societal returns to their investment in a community network. The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority is a highly successful Tribal broadband network. The City of Lafayette, Louisiana launched LUS Fiber to offer affordable, high-speed broadband for all of its residents. The City of Chattanooga, Tennessee, invested in a fiber network in 2009. That network isn't just economically viable, it turns a profit for the city even after offering low prices.

I also wish to recognize two community networks in my California's 18th Congressional District. A group of residents of the City of Los Altos Hills formed a mutual benefit organization called the Los Altos Hills Community Fiber Association to offer high-speed internet where other fiber options are sparse. The City of Palo was a pioneer when it became one of the first cities in our country to deploy a dark fiber network in 1996. This has enabled high-quality